

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03364 250914Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /059 W

-----250917Z 105565 /20

P 250845Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3466

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM PINT KS

SUBJ: UNIVERSITY SPY RING CASE

REFJ

STATE 88029

1. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED FILES AND OTHER U.S. AGENCIES IN KOREA WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION ON SPY RING CASE. WE STILL HAVE NO INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT CASE IS OR IS NOT BONA FIDE. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT ROKG CONSIDERS CASE A VALID ONE.

2. POSSIBILITY THAT ROKG MIGHT HAVE WISHED TO USE CASE OR SIMILAR CASES TO INTIMIDATE STUDENTS CANNOT BE ENTIRELY EXCLUDED. HOWEVER, AFTER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARRESTS IN UNIVERSITY CASE INVOLVING 21 ACCUSED (NOVEMBER 1975) THERE WAS NO (RPT NO) FURTHER PUBLICITY DESPITE SEVERE PENALTIES APPLIED. KANG CASE WHICH INVOLVED OTHERS WAS INVESTIGATED QUIETLY BY MILITARY AND EVEN ARRESTS RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY. GENERAL PUBLIC AND GREAT MASS OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN KEPT IN DARK ON THESE MATTERS, AND IT IS, THEREFORE, DOUBTFUL THAT CASES WERE MANUFACTURED SIMPLY FOR PUBLIC OR STUDENT CONSUMPTION.

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3. WE ARE STILL CHECKING FOR INFORMATION ON YI CHOL AND KWON CHON-HONG. WE HOPE TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THEM IN NEXT WEEK OR SO AND WILL REPORT PROMPTLY.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ESPIONAGE, STUDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SEOUL03364  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009